

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

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SUBJECT: MODE-TREASURY REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A US POSITION AT USEC
FOR LIAISON FOR CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 0178 (B) STATE 71162

1. MISSION AND EMBASSY HAVE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
ON THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL B:

A. MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE LIST OF DUTIES IN REFTEL B IS
CLEAR AND APPROXIMATELY CORRECT. TO A LARGE EXTENT THE AMOUNT
OF TIME THAT THE MISSION CAN PROFITABLY SPEND WITH THE CCC DEPENDS
UPON WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN THE ORGANIZATION. IF THE UNITED
STATES WISHES TO INFLUENCE OTHER STATES TO ADOPT SPECIFIC POSITIONS
IN THE CCC, THIS COULD REQUIRE A LARGE AMOUNT OF LOBBYING BY A
USEC CCC OFFICER. HOWEVER, HE CANNOT LOBBY UNLESS THERE IS A
US GOVERNMENT POSITION. EVEN THOUGH WE CERTAINLY CANNOT GUARANTEE
THAT THE POSITION AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL B WILL BE FULL TIME,
WE DO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL OCCUPY A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF TIME
TO JUSTIFY AN OFFICER'S ASSIGNMENT, AND IN ADDITION WE BELIEVE
THAT WHEN THE OFFICER IS NOT BUSY ON SPECIFIC TASKS LISTED IN
REF B, WE CAN FIND ENOUGH FOR HIM TO DO IN RELATED SUBJECTS TO
MAKE THE JOB WORTHWHILE. TO AVOID REPETITION WE WILL REFRAIN
FROM REPEATING PREVIOUS ARGUMENTS ON WHY WE THINK THE TASK OF
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CCC LIAISON IS ONE THAT SHOULD INTEREST THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-
MENT. WE CONTINUE TO THINK THAT AN FSO 4/GS 13 GRADE LEVEL IS
APPROXIMATELY RIGHT FOR THIS JOB, THOUGH THE ASSIGNMENT OF A
COMPETENT
INDIVIDUAL ONE GRADE HIGHER OR LOWER WOULD NOT, IN OUR OPINION,
INTERFERE WITH THE WORK PERFORMANCE.

B. AS WE HAVE STATED BEFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE OFFICER ASSIGNED SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE ECONOMIC SECTION OF USEC REPORTING THROUGH THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND SUBJECT TO THE POLICY DIRECTION OF THE MISSION. WE WOULD PREFER A GS OFFICER WITH A SPECIALTY OR CAREER INTEREST IN CUSTOMS MATTERS, BUT WOULD ACCEPT AN FS OFFICER. THE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS THAT THIS JOB BE GIVEN TO A BROAD-GAUGED, CAPABLE AND ENERGETIC PERSON WHO IS (A) ABLE TO ACQUIRE AND MAKE USE OF A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF A HIGHLY TECHNICAL FIELD AND (B) AT THE SAME TIME IS ABLE TO RELATE THIS TECHNICAL FIELD TO OTHER BROAD CONSIDERATIONS OF TRADE AND FOREIGN POLICY. HE MUST ALSO HAVE THE PERSONALITY TO DEVELOP CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE RELATIONS WITH THE CCC SECRETARIAT, FOREIGN DELEGATIONS, EC COMMISSION PERSONNEL AND THE RESPONSIBLE WASHINGTON AGENCIES. FRANKLY, ONE OF THE REASONS WHY WE HAVE ARGUED FOR AN OFFICER IN A MIDDLE GRADE IS THAT WE THINK IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY HE NOT HAVE HAD SO LONG AN EXPERIENCE IN EITHER OF THE ASPECTS OF THE JOB THAT HE WOULD TEND TO LOOK AT IT FROM ONLY ONE POINT OF VIEW AND NOT BE ABLE TO EXPAND INTO THE OTHER HALF OF THE JOB. TO AVOID HAVING THIS OFFICER CONFINED TOO MUCH IN A PURELY TECHNICAL JOB IS ONE OF THE REASONS WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIM ASSUME OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FROM TIME TO TIME, MAINLY ON TRADE POLICY QUESTIONS SO THAT HE CAN SEE DIRECTLY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WORK OF THE CCC AND GENERAL TRADE POLICY. THOUGH THE CCC IS TO A LARGE EXTENT A TECHNICAL BODY, ITS WORK IMPINGES VERY HEAVILY ON OTHER ASPECTS OF US FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL BE PROPORTIONATE TO ITS INTEGRATION INTO GENERAL TRADE POLICY DECISIONS, MADE JOINTLY BY ALL OF THE RELEVANT US AGENCIES.

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C. CURRENTLY THE USEC TRADE POLICY OFFICER AND AN EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER ARE DEVOTING SOME TIME TO PARTS OF THE TASKS DESCRIBED IN REF B. IF WE HAD TO DO EVERYTHING LISTED IN REF B WITH NO INCREASE IN STAFF, THE AMOUNT OF TIME WE WOULD SPEND ON IT WOULD DEPEND HEAVILY UPON WASHINGTON'S SPECIFIC DEMANDS. IF WASHINGTON SHOWED SUFFICIENT INTEREST AND WE WERE DIRECTED TO ACCOMPLISH THOROUGHLY ALL OF THE TASKS LISTED IN REF B, WE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE TO CUT BACK ON OTHER MISSION ACTIVITIES. WE WOULD TRY TO CHOOSE AMONG ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE A RELATIVELY LESSER INCIDENCE ON US INTERESTS AND US-EC RELATIONS. THESE WOULD MAINLY BE TASKS CURRENTLY BEING PERFORMED BY THE INDUSTRIAL OFFICER. AMONGST THESE SUBJECTS WOULD BE ENVIRONMENT, STANDARDS, FREEDOM OF ESTABLISHMENT, REGIONAL POLICY, TRANSPORT POLICY, INSURANCE AND SOME SECTORAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS, E.G. SHIPBUILDING, PHARMACEUTICALS, ETC. WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO CURTAIL ANY OF THESE FUNCTIONS BUT THEIR PRIORITY IS CURRENTLY PROBABLY MORE OR LESS THE EQUIVALENT OF THAT OF REPORTING ON THE CCC. PRIORITIES DO OF COURSE CHANGE BECAUSE OF SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY.

2. AS WE STATED IN REF A, WE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A NEW CCC OFFICER UNLESS THE NEW POSITION IS ACCOMPANIED BY ONE NEW SECRETARY. IN THE CASE OF THE SECRETARY, WE FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT THE NOMINEE SHOULD BE FS RATHER THAN GS. THE MISSION IS ALREADY SHORT ON SECRETARIES AND WE DO NOT FEEL THAT WE CAN ACCEPT ANY FURTHER OFFICER COMPLEMENT UNLESS THIS NEED IS TAKEN CARE OF. EVEN IF THE OFFICER SPENT FULL TIME ON CCC MATTERS, WE DOUBT THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD ALSO SPEND 100 PERCENT OF TIME ON THESE RESPONSIBILITIES. SECRETARY WILL BE NEEDED TO PERFORM OTHER FUNCTIONS AS WELL. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE THE FLEXIBILITY AND VERSATILITY OF AN FS SECRETARY ESSENTIAL.

3. WE URGE WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO REACH AN EARLY FAVORABLE DECISION ON THE CREATION OF THE OFFICER AND SECRETARY POSITIONS. THIS CABLE IS A JOINT MESSAGE FROM USEC AND EMBASSY BRUSSELS. HINTON

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